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Mine Accidents.

Prevention of accidents in coal mines, depends to a great extent on the Mining Boss.

Thus :—He should make it his special duty to visit all working places and traveling roads once every twenty-four (24) hours, and examine carefully the roof and sides of said traveling roads, rooms, entries, &c., and should he see any miner, laborer, or any person in discharge of his duty, working under a stone, coal, roof, &c., as to endanger his or their lives, he should instantly cause the said person, or persons, to take down, or prop the said dangerous stone, coal, roof &c., as he deem best and to his satisfaction that all is safe.

Persons should not be permitted under any consideration to work where there is any lodgment, or appearance of gas, until such is wholly cleared away. He should make it his study to ventilate the mine or mines, according to law, and bung the doors in a proper manner ; see that the stoppings are kept tight, and air-courses clean, &c. Should the mines be too extensive to permit the Boss to visit the working places daily, he should cause an experienced person in whose ability he may have confidence to discharge his duty, to assist him in making his daily visits.

Undoubtedly, there is many a person when promoted to the position of Mining Boss, never gives a second thought to the responsibility that comes upon him. 1st, He has care of the miners whom he has in charge, "the same as a mother of her children"; 2nd, he has the mining law to contend with in every particular; and 3rd, he has the Company to contend with in regard to the expenses incurred per ton, &c.

Undoubtedly, if every Mining Boss take in earnest, and practice the above simple method, the percentage of accidents would be greatly reduced in our mines, as it has often been the case that the miner will risk his life, yet, knowing at the same time that the place is not safe. Here he goes to work on the supposition that such may give him time to load his car, or get the mining finished, or the hole drilled, &c. "Then," he says, "I'll set a prop." Yes, very often the case, when it is too late.

This simple practice is of a most vital importance to the safety of the miners, and beneficial to the operators, and a credit to the Mining Boss, when reading the annual report with none, or the percentage of accidents greatly reduced.

I am fraternally yours,

ROGER ASHTON.

Mr. Thos. H. Love, District Mine Inspector from Leesville, Ohio, then read a paper on the Oils Burned in the Mines of Ohio. Mr. Love illustrated his paper by the aid of several lighted lamps filled with samples of oils he had taken in various places in his district. The fume and amount of smoke produced by several was a surprise to many present who found it difficult to believe that operators would allow such oil to be used in their mines. The subject was eagerly discussed by John C. Allen, Pres. Howells, Mr. Bell, Mr. Haseltine and others. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Love for his paper and the interest he had taken in bringing the subject to the attention of the Institute.